

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended): ~~The manufacturing method of any of Claims 1 or 2~~

A manufacturing method for a sintered substrate of an alkaline storage battery,

comprising:

a first step for mixing particles with a pore former and applying the mixture to a porous substrate, wherein the particles are made of nickel or principally made of nickel, and the pore former is provided in the form of particles which each have a coating made of nickel or principally made of nickel;

a second step for sintering the porous substrate and the applied mixture;

and

wherein the pore former contains an element that has an effect of lowering a sintering temperature of nickel.

4. (original): The manufacturing method of Claim 3,

wherein the element that lowers the sintering temperature

of nickel is at least one element selected from the group consisting of P, B and In.

5-7. (canceled)

8. (new): A manufacturing method for a sintered substrate of an alkaline storage battery, comprising:

a first step for mixing particles with a pore former and applying the mixture to a porous substrate, wherein the particles are made of nickel or principally made of nickel, and the pore former is provided in the form of particles which each have a coating made of nickel or principally made of nickel; and

a second step for sintering the porous substrate and the applied mixture, wherein

each of the pore former particles used in the first step has a hollow space that is filled with a hydrocarbon with a low boiling point.

9. (new): The manufacturing method of claim 8, wherein said hydrocarbon is one or more of the group consisting of butane and methane.

10. (new): The manufacturing method of claim 8, wherein said hydrocarbon is butane.

11. (new): The manufacturing method of claim 8, wherein said hydrocarbon is methane.